

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1083
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Penny B. Ferguson on her numerous awards and accolades for excellence in teaching.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Penny B. Ferguson is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson has received numerous awards and commendations for her dedication to teaching, including selection as a Chevy Malibu/Time Magazine Teaching Excellence Award Regional Winner, "Unsung Heroes Award" from Northern Life Insurance in recognition of English/Social Studies Interdisciplinary Project, "2003 Disney American Teacher Award," "2003 NCTE Teacher of Excellence Award," 2003 NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, and 2003 *USA Today* All-American All-Teacher Team, Honorable Mention; and

WHEREAS, these honors are most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as they recognize the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to education in her personal life, as well as in her professional career, Dr. Ferguson earned her Bachelor's degree from Maryville College and later added a Master's degree, an Education Specialist degree, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens, and for this dedication, she has deservedly been recognized with many local, state, regional, and national awards; and

WHEREAS, for thirty-four years, Penny Ferguson has served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher of eleventh-grade English at Maryville High School; and

WHEREAS, throughout her outstanding career, Dr. Ferguson has earned the unbridled respect and admiration of her peers and her students and their parents for the exemplary quality of her service; and

WHEREAS, her professional excellence is obvious to all, and it has led her to be recognized dozens of times for her teaching abilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, she is a member of several professional organizations and has held leadership positions on the Tennessee Council of Teachers of English and the National Council of Teachers of English; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson has served astutely as a judge for numerous writing contests, a writing instructor, a member of several advisory and editorial boards, and an adjunct faculty member at Maryville College in the student teaching preparation program; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished writer in her own right, Penny Ferguson has contributed to numerous local and regional publications as a writer, editor, and producer; and

WHEREAS, her published work is rivaled in number and quality only by the many presentations that Dr. Ferguson has made for professional conferences, university classes, local government, and others; and

WHEREAS, an active participant in professional development programs, Penny Ferguson has been a member of the School Leadership Team since the team's inception, and she has initiated many other worthy projects, including an eleventh-grade Family History Project and a Multimedia Decade Museum; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her excellence in the classroom, Dr. Ferguson has also been a role model for students in extracurricular activities; a member of Leadership Blount, Class of 2004, she has compiled a long list of involvement in school and community events; and

WHEREAS, a devout and longtime member of New Providence Presbyterian Church, Penny Ferguson has served as a Bible School teacher and parent volunteer in preschool church classes; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson has established herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, simultaneously bettering the quality of life for her fellow citizens while diligently working in pursuit of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Penny B. Ferguson of Maryville, Tennessee, on her many awards for teaching excellence, commend her exceptional service to the youth of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.